





## A. S. WATSON &amp; CO., LIMITED

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

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WATERS.OUR AERATED WATER FACTORY is fitted  
with the best English Machinery, embodying  
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the utmost Care and Cleanliness exercised in  
the manufacture throughout.The Water used is proved by repeated  
Analyses to be Absolutely Pure.For Cakes & Puddings, Waters are bottled  
and placed on board ship at Hongkong prices, and  
the full amount allowed for Packages and  
Empty when received in good order.Counterfoil Order Books supplied on applica-  
tion.Our Registered Telegraphic Address is  
"DISPENSARY, HONGKONG."And all signed messages addressed thus will  
receive prompt attention.The following is a List of Waters always  
kept ready in Stock—

PURE AERATED WATER

SODA WATER

LEMONADE

POTASH WATER

SALT WATER

LITHIA WATER

SARSAPARILLA WATER

Tonic Water

GINGER ALE

GINGERADE

No Credit given for Bottles that look dirty  
or greasy, or that appear to have been used  
for any other purpose than that of containing  
Aerated Waters, as such Bottles are never used  
again by us.

A. S. WATSON &amp; CO., LIMITED.

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

Hongkong, 80th May, 1896.

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HONGKONG, JULY 25th, 1896.

By the death of THOMAS HUXLEY, which  
took place on the 80th day, English thought  
and letters are poorer than they were. Born  
at Ealing in 1825 Huxley was educated as a  
doctor and actually served at sea for some  
time as a naval surgeon. The charms of  
pure science soon drew him, as they drew  
Helmholtz, away from medicine, but not  
before he had made researches on the Osmotic  
Force and his brilliant monographs on  
other comparative anatomy subjects had re-  
ceived due recognition by his election to the  
Royal Society at the early age of six and  
twenty. In the following year (1852) the  
Society bestowed its gold medal on the  
young Fellow, and from that date the life  
history of Huxley has been the history of  
English science. Primarily a comparative  
anatomist he yet made brilliant excursions  
into many fields of science and in nearly  
every case brought off the spoils of victory.  
Not only in geology but in general biology,  
physiology, embryology, and morphology, he  
did original work, to say nothing of  
writing text books which on his literary  
merits alone may be almost reckoned En-  
glish classics. Although the recognized head  
and front of British science for more than a  
generation, and although he has done, as  
much original research as almost any man  
of his time, it is chiefly as a man of letters  
that Huxley will live. Pen and ink will  
give him his stature in the eyes of posterity.  
A would-be essayist by belittling on Hux-  
ley's collected Essays (published just be-  
fore his death, in ten volumes) might give  
like a gentleman for years; he might quarrel  
a fellow and hardly be found out, so great  
is the mass of original thought, and wit there-  
in. His prose is masterly in an age of great  
prose masters. Tennyson once complained to  
Grosvenor Elton that it was difficult to dis-  
tinguish himself in these days when every  
body wrote so well; and truly it was no  
small matter to have had to compete  
with contemporaries as, ROBERTSON,  
MACGILLIVRAY, NEWMAN, BUCKLEY, FROUDE,  
THURGOOD, MANN, PAYNE, and STRECHER.  
To us the leading features of Huxley's  
literary expression is virility. This was  
probably the outcome of the literature to  
which his best efforts were largely restricted,  
viz. controversy. He was ever in the very  
front of battle, fighting duels with the  
strongest foes he could find. He came to this  
combat fully armed, ready to smite his  
adversary and to be smitten. He tells us that  
he was naturally combative and was con-  
stantly sharpening his brain and claws in  
readiness. When he had to bite into brass,  
he wrote with strong *arguing fortis*. All this  
tended to virility, but he exhibits more than  
mere strength; common sense in his works  
was sublimed into something like inspira-  
tion; he is unsurpassed in happiness of  
expression and in humorous simile; he is  
a past-master of satire, that most dangerousand virulent of all literary tools. "Sitting in  
a room of study, as a rule, he was a goodly  
figure," says a friend, "it is not a fruit-bearing  
rod, though it occasionally scolds up a  
few sham serpents." Huxley, however, uses  
it with the finest art; dissociating it from  
infectious, he feathers it with accurate  
knowledge both of the man and opinions  
he aims at. His readiness and quickness  
were amazing, his courage equal to both.  
The Homeric battle at Oxford in 1860 was  
a case in point. The British Association  
met there that year, when the intellect of  
England was in a state of profound agitation  
over the recently published "Origin of  
Species." The Oxford of that day was  
replete with the high church orthodox which  
favored authority, scientific stagnation, and  
good port wine. There was a fierce battle  
in the cloisters of the Don; the evolution-  
ists were scouted and flouted by  
scholarly guidance, and were hooted all  
the way from Don to Barchinosa. Huxley  
at first declined combat on the ground that  
a general "audience in which sentiment  
would unduly interfere with intellect was  
not the public before which such a dis-  
cussion could be carried on." This refusal,  
which was really due to consideration for  
the susceptibilities of the Don and the  
religious emotional feelings of the ladies, was  
misunderstood, the anti-evolutionists de-  
clined to cowardly what was due to courtesy, and  
at King Edward's signal soon  
Dashed from the ranks.Sir RICHARD OWEN. This great scientist  
was the most eminent paleontologist and  
comparative anatomist in England, and the  
most determined opponent of the new views.  
Approaching as he said, the question in  
the spirit of a philosopher, he stated that  
there were facts which could guide men to  
right conclusions, "that the brain of the  
gorilla presented more difference as com-  
pared with the brain of man, than it did  
when compared with the brain of the lowest  
of the quadrupeds." This weighty as-  
sertion was too much for Huxley.  
Springing to his feet he faced the  
author of the anatomy world and gave the  
assertion "a direct and unqualified con-  
tradiction," promising to make good his  
position and "to justify this unusual pro-  
cedure elsewhere." He abundantly did so  
later on in "Man's Place in Nature."At the same meeting he had his famous  
passage of arms with the Bishop of Oxford,  
the well known Spinozian Samuel. This  
adroit and versatile prelate, utterly un-  
familiar in science but splendidly endow-  
ed with all the arts of the rhetorician, as-  
sailed Darwin's book and Darwin him-  
self with invincible wit, sarcasm, and  
ignorance. Whirled along by the wild ap-  
pearance of sympathizers in the audience  
he became grossly personal, and turned  
to Mr. Huxley asked whether he was  
related to an ape on his grandfather's  
or grandmother's side. Huxley gravely  
replied the Bishop's argument and ex-  
posed his ignorance, then with splendid  
composure crushed him with the following  
philippic: "I asserted and I repeat that  
a man has no reason to be ashamed of hav-  
ing an ape for his grandfather. If there  
were an ancestor whom I should feel shame  
in recalling, it would be a man, a  
man of restless and voracious intellect  
who, not content with an equivocal suc-  
cess in his own sphere of activity, plunges into  
scientific questions with which he has no real  
acquaintance only to obscure them by an  
aimless rhetoric, and to distract the atten-  
tion of his hearers from the real point at  
issue by eloquent digressions and skilled  
appeals to religious prejudice." Truly  
THOMAS kept his claws and his tank in  
readiness.Huxley constantly opposed the wishes  
of his friends to bend his literary activity  
to the writing of some great master-  
pieces. He was content with the minor role  
of being the expositor and popularizer  
of science and scientific education, and  
especially of being the skimmer in the  
battle over evolution. He was the un-  
flinching opponent of that ecclesiastical spirit  
of clericalism which in England as every-  
where else is the deadly enemy of science.  
His attitude to clericalism was unfortunately  
confronted with his attitude to Christianity.  
Huxley was a devoted student of the Bible  
and had a deep reverence for the noble  
ethics both of the old and new testaments.  
He was less appreciative of the Pauline  
theology and spirit. He knew that the new  
truths of science have ever been opposed by  
theologians, that when in power the latter  
have tried to suppress known facts, to per-  
secute their searchers, and to deny them  
when ascertained. Calling now truth un-  
belief they banished its sin and racked the  
evolution into virtue, degraded skepticism  
into vice, and then as the custodian of public  
morals acted accordingly. The scientists on  
the other hand deemed credulity an intellec-  
tual vice, and held skepticism to be a sci-  
entific virtue. Maintaining that the search  
and discovery of truth cannot be pleas-  
ing to the God of truth they denied that an  
idea could be true in theology and false in  
philosophy or vice versa. Hence his Hux-  
ley's chief difference with clericalism and  
the feeble kneed. He fought an incessant  
battle with those whom he called "the Bashi  
Bazookas of ignorance, and the Cossacks of  
"sesterism," and unfortunately he most  
often found these among the clergy.He took an active and beneficent part in  
all sorts of social work. His poverty in  
creed never impaired his riches in good  
works; like so many others in these times,  
the fact that he refused assent to the (un-  
natural) and dogma of the Church did not  
hinder him in a practical following of the  
Great Exemplar. As a member of the first  
London School Board, and of countless  
Royal and Parliamentary Committees which  
concerned social and scientific welfare,  
he did splendid work. The present condi-  
tion of the British salmon fishery is largely  
due to his scientific presence and robust  
common sense. In Mr. WALLACE, Lord  
KEVIN, and HERBERT SPENCER, Huxley  
had less more than his competitors in intel-  
lectual force; but it is doubtful if in a whole  
generation fruitful in able men there was  
one with so unique a mid-way-out as his  
own. Most certainly there was not one who  
put out his talents to better purpose, and  
few who deserved so well of their fellow  
men.The delivery of the French mail was begun  
at 8 a.m. yesterday.The P. & O. steamer *St. James*, from China,  
arrived at London on the morning of the 23rd  
inst.The steamer *Brooklyn* left Singapore yester-  
day, and is expected here on or about the 30th  
inst.B. N. S. *Mercury* returned to Singapore on  
the 15th inst., having left Lihuan on the 14th  
and Sarawak on the 16th inst.Baron Blane, the Italian Foreign Minister,  
left the new treaty with Japan before Parle-  
ment on 19th June. It is similar to the treaty  
for the Colonies.The *Straits Times* says it is a misfortune for  
the credit of Japan that the efforts of the  
Straits Development Company are being made  
the subject of absurd illusions in London.At the meeting of the Statistical Society on  
18th June, at the Royal United Service In-  
stitution, Whitehall, Mr. James Earl Robertson  
read a paper entitled "Some statistics bearing  
upon the Colonies."The first-class cruiser *Albatross*, which was  
commissioned in December last for temporary  
transport service between Portsmouth and China,  
was paid off on 18th June into the first division  
of Portsmouth Fleet Reserve.The Colombo Bank has agreed to adopt a  
system of small cheques, that is, for sums under  
20 rupees, the previous minimum amount.  
The system came into force on the 1st inst., and  
the applications for the special cheque books issued  
in connection therewith were very numerous.The *Journal de St. Petersburg* says that the  
construction of the Trans-Siberian Railway was  
only resumed in April, no advance having been  
made during the winter months. Of the 1,000  
miles of railway, only 1,000 miles are now  
under construction, of which 1,150 are already open for traffic.  
The rolling-stock of the different sections of the  
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